

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (New) A process for purifying human TNF-binding protein (h-TBP-1), comprising contacting an Immobilized Metal Affinity Chromatography (IMAC) with copper as metal with a crude solution of the h-TBP-1;

eluting the IMAC to recover the h-TBP-1,

applying the recovered h-TBP-1 on an Ion Exchange Chromatography (IEC) at an acidic pH, followed by an ion exchange chromatography at a basic pH; and

recovering the h-TBP-1.

11. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein the elution from the IMAC column is carried out at a pH of from 2.8 to 3.2.

12. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein the elution from the IMAC column is carried out at salinity of between 14 to 16 mS.

13. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein the acidic pH is between 3 and 4

14. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein the basic pH is between 8 and 10.

15. (New) The process according to claim 10, which further comprises, as polishing step, a Hydrophobic Interaction Chromatography (HIC).

16. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein each IMAC and IEC chromatography step is followed by an ultrafiltration step.

17. (New) The process according to claim 15, wherein an ultrafiltration step follows the Hydrophobic Interaction Chromatography.

18. (New) A process for purifying human recombinant TNF-binding protein (h-TBP-1), comprising contacting an Immobilized Metal Affinity Chromatography (IMAC) with copper as metal with a crude solution of the recombinant h-TBP-1;

eluting the IMAC to recover the recombinant h-TBP-1,

applying the recovered h-TBP-1 on an Ion Exchange Chromatography (IEC) at an acidic pH, followed by an ion exchange chromatography at a basic pH; and

recovering the h-TBP-1.

19. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein the elution from the IMAC column is carried out at a pH of from 2.8 to 3.2.

20. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein the elution from the IMAC column is carried out at salinity of between 14 to 16 mS.

21. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein the acidic pH is between 3 and 4

22. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein the basic pH is between 8 and 10.

23. (New) The process according to claim 18, which further comprises, as polishing step, a Hydrophobic Interaction Chromatography (HIC).

24. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein each IMAC and IEC chromatography step is followed by an ultrafiltration step.

25. (New) The process according to claim 23, wherein an ultrafiltration step follows the Hydrophobic Interaction Chromatography.